

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 220724 TOSEC 260123

66

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY P:PCHABIB:SKG

APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

S/S :RGAMBLE

S:RAHERNE (SUBSTANCE)

----- 128490

O 052203Z SEP 76 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 220724 TOSEC 260123

NODIS

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS US EG

SUBJECT: AMOCO OPERATION

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECRETARY'S INSTRUCTIONS I CALLED IN DINITZ SEPT 5 FOR DISCUSSION ON AMOCO OPERATIONS. AFTER INFORMING HIM I WAS SPEAKING AT SECRETARY'S REQUEST I FIRST DESCRIBED HARASSMENT OF DRILLING RIG, AND SAID WE MUST INSIST THAT THIS CEASE.

2. I THEN WENT OVER THE GENERAL CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE PRESENCE OF THE RIG AND ITS OPERATIONS, REFERRED TO TOON'S CONVERSATION WITH ALLON AND ENDED BY A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF OUR VIEWS ON THE HISTORY OF THE CONCESSION AND AMOCO'S RIGHT TO DRILL. I MADE A PARTICULAR POINT OF THE FACT THAT THE DRILLING CONCESSION WAS GRANTED IN 1964, POINTING OUT OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ISRAELIS ACCEPT THE VALIDITY OF CONCESSIONS GRANTED PRIOR TO 1967. I NOTED THAT AMOCO CONCES-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 220724 TOSEC 260123

SION REQUIRES THE COMPANY TO DRILL WITHIN A GIVEN DEADLINE

WHICH EXPIRES ON SEPTEMBER 21, 1976 IF THE CONCESSION RIGHTS ARE TO BE RETAINED.

3. I ENDED BY REQUESTING DINITZ TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF HIGH LEVELS OF HIS GOVERNMENT OUR PARTICULAR CONCERN OVER THE HARASSMENT WHICH MUST CEASE. I ALSO REQUESTED THAT

AMOCO BE PERMITTED TO DRILL AT THE PARTICULAR SITE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS WOULD IN NO WAY DEROGATE FROM ISRAEL'S POSITION WHICH HAD BY NOW BEEN CLEARLY ESTABLISHED.

4. DINITZ FIRST REPLIED WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTION OF HARASSMENT. DINITZ SAID HE HAD NO GUIDANCE ON THE LATEST INCIDENT BUT THAT SHOOTING AT THE BUOYS CLEARLY CONSTITUTED HARASSMENT WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO ALLON'S STATEMENT TO TOON. THIS WOULD BE FURTHER INVESTIGATED AND HE WAS SURE THAT THERE WAS NO DELIBERATE INTENTION TO CONTINUE THIS KIND OF HARASSMENT. DINITZ SAID HE DID HAVE AN INSTRUCTION TO ASSURE THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE ISRAELIS DID NOT DELIBERATELY MISLEAD US IN THEIR FIRST REPORTS DENYING THE SHOOTING AT THE BUOYS BUT HAD BEEN MERELY MISINFORMED BY THE BOATS ON THE SPOT. HIS INSTRUCTION ADDED THAT ALLON'S STATEMENT TO TOON WAS INTENDED TO BE AND CONTINUED TO BE ISRAELI POLICY. HE QUOTED ALLON'S STATEMENT AS BEING: "ISRAEL WILL NOT PHYSICALLY HARASS THE DRILLING VESSELS BUT WILL NOT PERMIT THEM TO DRILL." I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT THIS WAS NOT PRECISELY AS THE STATEMENT HAD BEEN REPORTED TO US BUT DID NOT DISPUTE IT ANY FURTHER.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF THE AMOCO RIG DRILLING AT THE DISPUTED SITE, DINITZ MENTIONED A NUMBER OF THE ARGUMENTS PREVIOUSLY MADE BY ALLON TO TOON, BUT THEN HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE REASON FOR THE URGENCY IN THIS MATTER; NAMELY, THAT THE CONCESSION RIGHTS DEPENDED UPON DRILLING BEFORE SEPTEMBER 21. THIS WAS A NEW FACTOR OF WHICH HE WAS NOT SURE HIS GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE. IN THE END HE PROMISED TO REPORT URGENTLY OUR REPRESENTATIONS TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND BE IN TOUCH WHEN HE HAD A REPLY. HE NOTED IT WAS THEIR HOPE THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE PRESS BUT REFERRED TO AN ARTICLE WHICH HAD

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 220724 TOSEC 260123

APPEARED IN MA'ARIV. I TOLD HIM I WAS AWARE OF THE ARTICLE AND FOUND IT MISLEADING IN THE CONNOTATION THAT THE DRILLING OPERATION WAS AN EGYPTIAN ONE USING AMERICAN EQUIPMENT. HE MUST UNDERSTAND THIS WAS AN AMERICAN RIG DRILLING IN AN AMERICAN CONCESSION. WE AGREED, OF COURSE, THAT PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THIS MATTER WOULD BEST BE AVOIDED. BUT I CAUTIONED HIM THAT IF REPORTS APPEARED WHICH WERE INACCURATE THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE CORRECTED.

6. WE PARTED AMICABLY AND HE SEEMED TO ACCEPT AN EARLIER
STATEMENT THAT I HAD MADE THAT A MATTER OF THIS CHARACTER
SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO GROW OUT OF ALL PROPORTION TO ITS
INHERENT IMPORTANCE GIVEN THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WE ENJOY.
ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, SHIP HARASSMENT, CAT-B, BRIEFING MATERIALS, MEETING REPORTS, PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, FOREIGN POLIC Y POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE220724
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PCHABIB:SKG
Enclosure: FOR EAGLEBURGER
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760987/aaaacxhc.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMOCO OPERATION
TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, EG, AMOCO, (DINITZ, SIMCHA)
To: SECRETARY TEL AVIV CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006